

suspects on its terrorist watch list attempt to buy guns, but regulations prohibit those officials from obtaining details if the transaction occurs." The article states that 13 alleged terrorists have been allowed to buy guns.

A follow-up Post article from November 22 reports that the Justice Department has ordered the FBI to increase scrutiny of suspected terrorists who attempt to buy guns, but gives the FBI only three days to run additional checks on prospective gun buyers listed on the Violent Gang and Terrorist Organizations File."

We are fighting a war on terrorism—and as chairman of the CJS subcommittee I have offered unwavering support to the Justice Department and the nation's federal law enforcement 4 activities—yet terrorist manuals recovered by law enforcement contain guidance on how easy it is to buy guns in the United States. Even the Justice Department's website contains the al Qaeda training manual which includes the following: "The confrontation that we are calling for with the apostate regimes does not know Socratic debates . . . , Platonic ideals . . . , nor Aristotelian diplomacy. But it knows the dialogue of bullets, the ideals of assassination, bombing, and destruction, and the diplomacy of the cannon and machine-guns."

It continues with "Second Issue: The importance of establishing a tactical plan for the assassination operation that consists of the operational factors themselves (members, weapons, hiding places . . .) and factors of the operation (time, place). In this example, we shall explain in detail the part related to the security plan. The part related to operational tactics will be explained in the lesson on special operational tactics."

That's how the terrorists train and that scenario is one about which I have long been concerned. In September 1998 I saw the need to address the growing threat of terrorism in the world and authored legislation which created the National Commission on Terrorism chaired by Ambassador Paul Bremer. That was less than a month after two U.S. embassies in East Africa were bombed by terrorists linked to Osama bin Laden. I had raised with our colleagues then the concern that Sudan was harboring bin Laden. Quite frankly I have been frustrated in my attempts to get Congress and administrations past and present to be proactive in combating the terrorist threat.

Now comes this firearms regulation change which I believe could play into terrorists' hands. Obtaining weapons is a critical part of their plan. It is abundantly clear that we need to change some of our laws, but not in ways that make it easier for terrorists to buy weapons in the United States.

We all remember the terror of 9/11. Our nation and the world changed forever on that day when 3,000 died, including 30 from my congressional district. We all remember the terror that gripped the Washington area a year later when snipers killed 14 and wounded six others, including a young child. Shouldn't we be doing everything we can to assist law enforcement officers in rooting out terrorists, rather than tying their hands?

HONORING LTC ROBERT D. COULDRY FOR HIS 36 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE 139TH AIRLIFT WING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 25, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize LTC Robert D. Couldry of the 139th Airlift Wing stationed at Rosecrans Memorial Airport, St. Joseph, Missouri. Lieutenant Colonel Couldry has exemplified the finest qualities of leadership and service and is being honored for his 36-year commitment to the Missouri Air National Guard and to the citizens of Missouri.

Lieutenant Colonel Couldry enlisted in the Missouri Air National Guard in 1967 and was commissioned in 1979. His dedication to service became evident early on in his career. Lieutenant Colonel Couldry's contributions to the 139th Aerial Port Squadron have spanned over 25 years, where he led the formation of the Aerial Port Standardization and Evaluation Quality Control program.

In his position as the 139th Airlift Wing Inspector General officer, Lieutenant Colonel Couldry developed the first 139th Airlift Wing Inspector General Program and associated Wing Inspector General Operating Instructions. His diverse background and knowledge helped make this program successful and improved operation through staff education.

In addition to his service in the Missouri Air National Guard, Lieutenant Colonel Couldry also served his state as the superintendent of schools for Mid-Buchanan School District.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the career of LTC Robert D. Couldry, who exemplifies the qualities of dedication and service to Northwest Missouri and the United States of America.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3541, THE IMPLEMENTS OF TORTURE EXPORT CONTROL ACT OF 2004

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 25, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday I introduced the Implements of Torture Export Control Act of 2004, a bill to make it impossible for those who torture people abroad to misuse U.S. produced equipment for that purpose. This measure is similar to an amendment that was adopted on a bipartisan basis in the Committee on International Relations in the 107th Congress as part of legislation to reform the U.S. export control system.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced H.R. 3541 out of concern that the U.S. and other Western nations are exporting crime control and torture equipment to human rights abuses around the world. This bill would write into law a standard that should be an axiom of U.S. human rights foreign policy: the United States, while it seeks to improve respect for the basic human rights of person throughout the world, ought not to

sell to torturers implements that make it easier for them to inflict pain and suffering on their helpless victims.

Mr. Speaker, in the right hands, crime control equipment can protect the innocent. In the wrong hands, it is used on the innocent. Amnesty International reports that governments that regularly use torture against detained persons frequently use crime control equipment from the U.S. and other Western suppliers as ready-made implements of torture. Existing export regulations require general licenses for the export of many types of crime control equipment, leaving whole categories of criminal equipment free to be exported without any specific review. It is true that most of this equipment, including electroshock discharge weapons, can be purchased domestically by private U.S. citizens for "self-defense" purposes. However, private U.S. citizens—as well as U.S. law enforcement officials—can be reliably prosecuted for any abuse of these implements as torture tools. Exports of these same items, however, to countries that use torture as part of official or condoned practice should be regulated because they may have unreliable or nonexistent systems of judicial accountability for torture abuse.

No U.S. exporter should ever want to sell its products to governments, or government-supported groups, that will use the labor of American workers to torture their citizens. But U.S. exporters do not have the resources to know the totality of the practices of their prospective customers. It is up to the U.S. Government to ensure that American products do not go to abusive governments.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3541 would do a number of things:

It would require that the Secretary of Commerce create a list of crime control and detection instruments and equipment especially susceptible to abuse as implements of torture.

It would require that an individual export license of all such items unless the export is to a major ally, and requires that applications are reviewed by human rights experts in the U.S. government.

It would prohibit export of all such items to any country if the government of such country has engaged in acts of torture until the Secretary of State has determined stopped such acts for the previous twelve months. To allow legitimate trade, however, such items could be exported to a particular end-user if the Secretary of State has determined that such end user has not engaged in acts of torture.

Perhaps most importantly, the bill completely prohibits the export of certain equipment that is particularly susceptible to abuse as equipment of torture, such as electroshock stun belts, leg irons and other restraints that have sharp or serrated edges, batons or clubs fitted with spikes and other items that are similarly susceptible to misuse.

Mr. Speaker, in 1979, the Congress recognized that crime control equipment required special review, but current law needs updating and reform. I urge all my colleagues to support this common-sense addition to the Export Administration Act, and ensure that American crime control products are not abused instead to torture the innocent.